petroleum imports; and

(c) if so, the deadline set therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) As per the Exim Policy, 2002—2007, as amended up to 31.3.2003, the import of petroleum products is through IOC. However, direct imports have been allowed only to those companies which have been granted marketing rights of transportation fuels in terms of Ministry of P&NG's Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-Mkt. dated 8.3.2002.

(b) The relevant provision of the General Agreement on Tariff & Trade (GATT) 1994 of WTO does not require any member to undertake such a commitment.

(c) Does not arise.

Reduction in Industrial Duty

†4492. SHRI MATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for reduction in industrial duty from WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to raise the issue of higher duties and non-duty related obstructions in the developed countries which are faced by the Indian exports during the course of discussion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (e) Duty reductions on non-agricultural products, also commonly called industrial goods, is a subject for negotiations mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration of the WTO. Several WTO Members, including India, have already submitted proposals on modalities for negotiations on this issue.

India in its proposals to the WTO has included modalities that would ensure reduction in tariff peaks, i.e. the duties higher than average, as well as suggested effective addressing of the non-tariff barriers on products of its export interests. An indicative list of non-tariff barriers faced by Indian exports has also been provided to the Chairman of the Negotiating Group.

Facilities for Export of Flowers

4493. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of flowers destined for export to various countries has been lying at different airports including Bangalore for want of transportation facilities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure transportation of these flowers to their destination to boost floriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of limited cargo space, the exporters occasionally face difficulties in exports of flowers during Christmas and Valentine season.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Product Exports Development Authority (APEDA) has set up cold storage and cargo handling facilities at various international air ports for handling export of perishable cargo including floriculture products and provides air freight assistance to exporters. Further it assesses floriculture export volume and liaises with Air India in order to facilitate exports of flowers.

SEZs in Andhra Pradesh

4494. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of States where Special Economic Zones have been set up in the country;

(b) the places where new SEZs are proposed to be set up in future; and

(c) the number and other details of SEZs in the State of Andhra Pradesh alongwith details of new SEZs to be set up there in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Eight existing Export Processing Zones (EPZs) converted into Special Economic Zones (SEZs) located at Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) are at present functional.